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There so many attractive ramifications in the musical field, that the supervisor often finds it difficult to confine himself to definite limitations. The community through its church choirs, need of private teachers, and community choruses makes demands upon him which are pleasureable and remunerative. But his first and foremost duty is to the teachers and through them to the pupils of the first six grades; without this there can be no Junior High School music of any worth, and no intelligent work in Senior High School.

There is nothing which a Supervisor of Music can do in the way of public entertainments, with their garnishings of costumes, paint and foot lights, with their fairies skipping and amateur ballets tripping, or their befeathered Indians, and saintly Puritans, or bombastic Kings and abused Princesses, with all of which, we are only too familiar—there is nothing which can make atonement for the neglect of the work in the first six grades when the children are in that rare plastic stage when they can learn anything, if they are only taught it in a sound, pedagogical manner.

## 2. COMMUNITY SONGS AND SINGING

CORA CONWAY, York, Nebraska.

What can be done by the grades for Community Music? That question cannot be answered or even guessed. We are all dreamers, more or less. Jeanne d' Arc was not the only person who has seen visions and heard voices calling her to lead her people to victory. But she was absolutely fearless. Some of you are being urged by your visions and voices from within, to rise up and do a big thing, but fear of public criticism, or the failure of your undertaking, is keeping your light hid under a bushel. Let us take her as an example—go ahead, not arrogantly, but with a genuine faith in the good to be accomplished and who can tell where our efforts may lead. To my mind, a performance of any kind by the children of the grades means an unusual interest taken by practically all people. It has its own peculiar attraction, no matter if the work presented is not quite so artistic as that given by pupils of the Junior High School or Senior High School. All I can bring to you is just what we are doing and some of the things we are hoping to accomplish, which will doubtless sound very small to many. But if it gives one little spark of inspiration to anyone, I shall indeed be gratified.

For five years previous to this one, at the Christmas season, we have had had an assembling of all the grade children in our largest church for the purpose of singing together the Christmas hymns and carols. In this way the parents have become familiar with these songs, and now at the Christmas time it is very noticeable how well the Church congregations are singing, not mumbling, but really singing the beautiful story of the Christ Child, taught them, as many have told me, by their own children.

This year the Commercial Club thought it worth while to request the children to sing in the down town districts, each night for one week before Christmas. You may think the Club had a mere mercenary object. Perhaps so—but the result was far different. We sang by Ward schools—each evening a different school furnishing the concert. You would have been amazed as I was, at the number of people who followed the children from place to place as they sang, and how many joined with them in their singing. The tired shoppers seemed glad of the opportunity to turn their minds to more peaceful things, and many clerks and employers were seen in the crowd of listeners, forgetting their weariness in the uplift of song, and the real meaning of Christmas. It had its effect on the children as well, they felt they were doing something worth while, giving of themselves for the happiness of others. It also gave them a chance to hear other wards sing, and in every case had a splendid effect on their future work. Those who were doing very well, took a just pride in the fact, while in one or two cases the hearing of better work, proved a remarkable stimulus to both children and grade teachers. Yes, it was hard for the Supervisor, and if

you are not willing to put your pride in your pocket, for the good of the cause, don't try it. Any innovation has its trying side, and I will admit the first night, I went to my task with a deal of misgiving, but the eager faces of the children soon drove that away, and the general attitude of the listeners made me feel it was really worth while. When the same people will assemble evening after evening to listen to children sing, they must be receiving some message. Try it next year, and see for yourselves. Doubtless you are having your Community sings, but if there are any who have not tried using a chorus of children as the inspiration of the occasion, get busy. You are missing the time of your lives.

The First of March the Public Schools had a patriotic song service, using five hundred children as the choir. At the request of many of our townsmen, similar services will be held in April and May. It must be admitted, as yet, the children do a greater part of the singing, but when a little child leads, it doesn't take grown up long to follow.

We are planning a coming together of all the grade children from the different towns of the County, the middle of May. They are all learning the same songs, the same way, as I have the personal supervision and we are hoping for a splendid time. Illness in my home has made it impossible to carry out this program throughout the rural districts of the county, as had been planned.

We are trying to bring music into the rural districts of Nebraska, in fact, that is a large part of the work as outlined for the Music Department of the Federation of Woman's Clubs of the State. They are helping boost, and if the Supervisors will not only boost but shove, if necessary, we can have a real "Musical Revival." Perhaps in many states music has not been neglected in its rural schools, but in Nebraska I fear there are many schools where the children never sing—and we hope to report next year that nothing of that kind exists. May it be the general report from all over the United States?

If music means what we claim for it, not a mere form of entertainment but a living, vital part of our development, may we not win a splendid victory for the betterment of humanity if by our earnest and sincere efforts, we help bring into the lives of all people the real uplift of song? Then we may truly say, the world is "in tune with the Infinite."

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## THE ST. LOUIS MEETING OF THE M. T. N. A.

Reports from widely-scattered members of the Music Teachers National Association indicate that an unexpectedly large attendance will be one of the features of the annual meeting at St. Louis December 30-31, January 1 next. The plans of the standing committees interest so many persons and are including so many features of value to every teacher, that they are attracting general attention. The work of the Affiliation Committee, of which J. Lawrence Erb of the University of Illinois is chairman, is bringing State and National Associations in much closer touch and bringing about a very desirable condition. Max Swarthout of Decatur, Illinois, is a new member of the Standardization Committee, of which Charles H. Farnsworth of Teachers' College, New York, is chairman. Dean Carl E. Seashore of the State University of Iowa will present a paper at the St. Louis meeting on "An Analysis of the Traits of the Musical Mind," and will provide opportunity for certain tests and demonstrations during the convention. Messrs. Leon R. Maxwell of New Orleans and Lynn B. Dana of Warren, Ohio, will discuss the problems of music-teachers during present abnormal conditions. Throughout the meeting stress will be laid upon the subject of the musician's duties and place in the community. At the piano conference to be conducted by E. R. Kroeger of St. Louis, Miss Alice Pettingill of St. Louis will talk on Wager Swayne's ensemble class in Paris, and E. A. Schubert of St. Charles, Missouri, will have a paper on "The Piano Hand." New items are being added to the convention program almost daily, and the entire list will soon be ready for publication.